

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4198 FOR Tel. #250. 3 pm

FROM Ethiopia ( Engert ) DATED Apr. 29, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1187 070

REGARDING: Ethiopian Government will probably leave Addis Ababa  
on the afternoon of April 30. Latest reports indicate  
Italians may occupy Addis Ababa about May 3.

NPL

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone (A)

Addis Ababa via N.R.

Dated April 29, 1936

Rec'd 7:22 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

250, April 29, 3 p.m.

CONFIDENTIAL

My 231, April 22, 5 p.m.

Government will probably leave tomorrow afternoon for Lekempti some 150 miles due west of here. Latest reports indicate Italians may occupy Addis Ababa about May 3, provided they meet with no resistance. Small Ethiopian forces believed still holding certain strategic positions about eighty miles north of the capital.

The Government will be accompanied by Spencer (See my 13, January 7) and by Dr. and Mrs. Lambie (See my 171, November 14).

ENGERT

NPL:SMS

4198

Jan. 13, 1940<sup>22</sup> tel. no. 3 to Cula.  
re. of the U.S. in connection with  
giving an indication as to the recognizing  
a future foreign govt. (837.00/8634)

Mar. 30, 1940 tel. no. 103 to  
Japan re. Hull's statement in re  
attitude of govt. with respect to  
new regime being set up in Japan  
& China under dominion of Japan  
(893.01/7089)

if right date. 865d. 01/2 ✓  
memo by Hackath & E. O. J. on the  
recog. of a govt. in govt. governed  
by intent, that intent to  
recognize cannot be lightly  
imputed and that routine  
administrative action does not  
constitute recognition.

840.51 foreign credits/18a.  
Circular tel. 4 p.m. to American  
Republics re U.S. X govt. continuing  
to recognize the Danish monarch  
- the U.S. as the rep. of Denmark  
with regards to German aggression  
thereof

tel. 49, July 16, 1932 to Chile  
as ~~also~~ regards res. rege ~ Chile  
(825.00 Revd. /49) ✓

Letter to Cunningham, as to policy of U.S.  
recog. other govt. (800.01/74) ✓

Sept. 7, 1933 memo. by L A  
dir. E C Wilson re. discussion of  
a gen. pol. of the U.S. in recog.  
de facto govt. in L A. (810.01/49)

May 16, 1936 letter to G. H.  
Pinham MC, gen. rule on policy  
re. recog. by U.S. of new govt.  
cites precedents where U.S. granted  
recog. within 30 days. (834.01/37) ✓

Jan. 17, 1938 memo by Cordell Hull,  
policy of non recog. of conquest &  
aggression <sup>or</sup> ~~was~~ to be followed in order  
to maintain <sup>or</sup> ~~sanctity~~ inter. treaties of CF  
international law. (700.00/182)

Jan. ~~21~~ 21, 1939. tel. 2,  
to El Salvador re. Policy of U.S. govt.  
toward recog. of revd. govt. (816.00/1050) ✓

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4208 FOR Tel. #256

FROM Ethiopia ( Engert ) DATED Apr. 30, 1936, Rec'd  
TO NAME 1-1137 \*\*\*

REGARDING: Preparations were made by the Ethiopian Government to leave Addis Ababa tonight but is evidently not leaving before tomorrow.

ge

865D.01/2

LMS

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (A)

Addis Ababa via N. R.

Undated

Rec'd 2 p. m.,  
April 30, 1936

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

253.

My 250, April 29th.

CONFIDENTIAL. The Emperor has been in close seclusive touch with officials of the Government here during the past day or two and is, even believed to have spent a night in Addis Ababa. Government had made preparations to leave tonight but is evidently not leaving before tomorrow. The Italians are reported at Debra Berhan about 75 miles from here.

ENGERT

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 123 En 3/387 Confidential File FOR Tel. #254 8 pm

FROM Ethiopia ( Engert ) DATED April 30, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1187 \*\*\*

REGARDING: Emperor arrived April 30th at Addis Ababa and will  
probably leave on the evening of this date.

ge

865D.01/3

Confidential File

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4199 FOR Tel. #113, noon

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED Apr. 30, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1137 ...

REGARDING: Report that Addis Ababa has been taken and that announce-  
ment will be made in the afternoon or on May 1.

ge

865D.01/4



JS

GRAY

ROME

Dated April 30, 1936

Roc's 6:50 a.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington D.C.

113, April 30, noon.

A Foreign Office official has just informed me that Addis Ababa has been taken and that announcement will be made this afternoon or tomorrow morning. It is understood that nationwide celebrations will follow this announcement.

KIRK

JS

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4210 FOR Tel. #114, 11 am

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 1, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 ...

REGARDING: There has been no announcement so far confirming the statement as to the fall of Addis Ababa made by a member of the Foreign Office.

ge

865D.01/5

FS

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (A)

Rome

Dated May 1, 1936

Rec'd 6:32 a. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

114, May 1, 11 a. m.

CONFIDENTIAL.

My 113, April 30, noon.

There has appeared no announcement so far confirming the statement as to the fall of Addis Ababa made to me yesterday by the member of the Foreign Office who is an official in the Cabinet of the Under Secretary although the same statement was made to me subsequently by a person close to Mr. Suvich. In a conversation with the same official this morning I was informed that the announcement might be expected at any time, possibly this afternoon.

HPD

KIRK

220

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4219 FOR Tel. #241, 11 am

FROM Great Britain ( Bingham ) DATED May 2, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 \*\*\*

REGARDING: Report that the Emperor has abdicated and left for  
Djibouti, leaving his Ministers in charge.

JS

GRAY

LONDON

Dated May 2, 1936

Rec'd 6:10 a.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington, D.C.

RUSH

241, May 2, 11 a.m.

Foreign Office has just informed me that the Emperor of Abyssinia has abdicated and taken the train for Djibouti. He has left his Ministers in charge but the British Legation reports that they cannot maintain order and there is considerable looting and shooting in Addis Ababa already.

BINGHAM

JS

4219

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4236 FOR Tel. #261, 9 am  
FROM Ethiopia ( Engert ) DATED May 2, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1157 ...

REGARDING: Apparently the Ethiopian Government left Addis Ababa during the night of May 1. Emperor's destination unknown.

LMS

GRAY

Addis Ababa via N. R.

Dated May 2, 1936

Rec'd 3:15 p. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

261, May 2, 9 a. m. PRIORITY.

Apparently Government left during the night. Empress with daughters and Prince Makonnen by train for Djibouti understand en route to Jerusalem. Emperor's destination unknown. Spencer and Lambies did not repeat not accompany the Government.

As soon as news of the departure of Government became known looting began in town which is continuing. There is a great deal of firing but mostly in the air. I shall await developments in the Legation for the present.

ENGERT

RR

4236

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4231 FOR Tel. #118, noon

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 3, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1187 ...

REGARDING: Statement made in the press that Italian troops had already reached Addis Ababa, however, according to information from the War Ministry Badoglio is not expected to enter the city until this evening or tomorrow morning.

865D.01/8



FS

GRAY

Rome

Dated May 3, 1936

Rec'd 9:30 a. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

118, May 3, noon.

The newspapers this morning publish from London, Paris, Washington and Djibouti, foreign news agency despatches regarding the Emperor's departure for Djibouti and the situation in Addis Ababa. The United Press report of the message received by the State Department from the American Minister is printed in full.

Foreign Office officials say that they have no reports on conditions in Addis Ababa other than those published in the press this morning although the statement was made that Italian troops had already reached the city. According to information supplied by the War Ministry, however, Badoglio is not expected to enter Addis Ababa until this evening or tomorrow morning but if necessary attempts may be made to land troops in the city by airplane in spite of danger from anti air fire. It is understood that no instructions are being sent to Badoglio as regards the measures to be taken upon the occupation

4237

FS        2-No. 118, May 3, noon from Rome

occupation of the city as those matters are being left to his judgment. Contrary to reports previously circulated the use of native troops in the occupation of the city is not contemplated.

CSB

KIRK

## DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4230 FOR Tel. #119, 1 pm

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED May 3, 1936  
 TO NAME 1-1197 070

REGARDING: Addis Ababa has not yet been taken but the entrance of Italian troops is expected at any time. Other Governments are anxious that Italians reach Addis Ababa as soon as possible in order to restore order.

FS

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (A)

Rome

Dated May 3, 1936

Rec'd 9:30 a. m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

119, May 3, 1 p. m.

I am informed that in view of the reports of the situation in Addis Ababa the French Ambassador here is making representations to the Italian Government asking that the entrance of Italian troops into Addis Ababa be expedited in order to restore order. The British Ambassador has received no (repeat no) instructions to make similar representations and in reply to an inquiry I have stated that this Embassy has received no such instructions.

Foreign press correspondents who were received by Mussolini at noon today following a ceremony report that he stated that Addis Ababa had not yet been taken but that the entrance of the Italian troops might be expected shortly. He added that the situation had changed and that now foreign governments wanted the Italians to reach Addis Ababa as soon as possible.

CS2

KARK

4230

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4235 FOR Tel. #273, 4 pm

FROM Ethiopia (Enkert) DATED May 3, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1197 ...

REGARDING: Italian vanguard is now only about ten or twelve miles from Addis Ababa and will presumably enter it on May 4. No evidence of Ethiopian resistance.

ge

865D.01/10

FS

PLAIN

Addis Ababa via N. R.

Dated May 3, 1936

Rec'd 1:50 p. m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

273, May 3, 4 p. m.

There is reliable information to the effect that the Italian vanguard is now only about ten or twelve miles from the city and will presumably enter it tomorrow. There is no evidence of Ethiopian resistance.

CSB

ENGERT

4231

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4266 FOR Tel. #123. 5 pm

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 4, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1187

REGARDING: Speech made by the President of the Chamber asserting that Italy awaits "full recompense for her victories" and that she will not be deprived of the "fruits of her triumphs".

LMS

A portion of this telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (A)

Rome

Dated May 4, 1936

Rec'd 3 p. m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

123, May 4, 5 p. m.

(GRAY) My 121, May 4, 10 a. m.

Mussolini did not make the awaited declaration at the Chamber this afternoon. The President of the Chamber made a brief speech asserting that Italy awaits "full recompense for her victories" and that she will not be deprived of the "fruits of her triumphs". The Duce announced that on a given notice manifestations similar to those held on October 2nd of last year would take place throughout Italy when he would address the people. The remainder of the session was devoted to a commemoration of King Fuad.

Reports from the various ministries including the Foreign Office here as to the exact progress of the Italian troops are conflicting in detail and contain no precise information as to the entrance into Addis Ababa although it is now generally said that Badoglio will arrive there tomorrow. (END GRAY)

I understand that the Foreign Office here depends on the Italian Consul at Djibouti for information on

the

4266



LMS 2-No. 123, May 4, 5 p. m. from Rome.

the advance to Addis Ababa while the War Ministry is said to receive messages from the front through the Ministry of Colonies. Such divergencies in the various reports may be thus partially explained.

KIRK

RR

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

REF 104.04/00

REF 701.000/100

FROM (NAME) (NAME)  
IN

(NAME)  
NAME

(NAME) MAY 10, 1960  
1 107 111

REMARKS: Information by American Information Program Office will  
immediately require action taken, after which,  
to assist in situation.

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4271 FOR Tel. #249, 5 pm

FROM Great Britain ( Bingham ) DATED May 5, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1137 ...

REGARDING: Report from the Foreign Office that Italian troops was passing the British Legation at four p.m., May 5.

CORRECTED COPY

LMS

GRAY

London

Dated May 5, 1936

Rec'd 11:15 a. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

RUSH.

249, May 5, 5 p. m.

The Foreign Office informs me that a long column of Italian troops was passing the British Legation at four p. m. (Addis Ababa time) today.

BINGHAM

HPD

4271

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4272 FOR Tel. #126, 5:20 pm

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED May 5, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 000

REGARDING: Definite information that the Italians troops have  
just entered Addis Ababa.

D

PLAIN

Rome,

Dated May 5 1936,

Rec'd 12:02 P. M.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

URGENT, TRIPLE PRIORITY, 126, May 5, 5:20 P. M.

Foreign Office informs me definitely that the Italians  
have just entered Addis Ababa.

KIRK

HPD

4272

## DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4286 ..... FOR Tel. 4130, 9 pm .....

FROM Italy ..... ( Kirk ..... ) DATED May 5, 1936 .....

TO ..... NAME ..... 1-1127 ...

REGARDING: Text of Mussolini's speech upon the entry of Italian  
troops into Addis Ababa delivered on May 5, 1936  
to the people of Italy.

LMS

GRAY

Rome

Dated May 5, 1936

Rec'd 6:42 p. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

RUSH.

130, May 5, 9 p. m.

My 127, May 5, 6 p. m.

Following is the translation of Mussolini's speech delivered this evening:

"Black Shirts, men and women of all Italy, Italians and friends of Italy beyond the mountains and across the seas, listen: Marshal Badoglio telegraphs: 'Today, May 5, at 4 p. m., at the head of our victorious troops, I entered Addis Ababa'.

During the thirty centuries of her history Italy has lived many memorable hours but this of today is certainly one of the most solemn. I announce to the Italian people and to the world that the war is over. I announce to the Italian people and to the world that peace is restored. It is not without emotion and not without pride that after seven months of severe hostilities I pronounce this great word. But it is strictly necessary for me to add that this is our peace,

Roman

4286



LMS 2-No. 130, May 5, 9 p. m. from Rome.

Roman peace, which is expressed in the following simple irrevocable definitive proposition: Ethiopia is Italian: Italian in fact because occupied by our victorious armies; Italian by right because with the sword of Rome it is civilization which triumphs over barbarity, it is justice which triumphs over cruel despotism, it is the redemption of suffering which triumphs over age-long slavery.

With the populations of Ethiopia peace is already an accomplished fact. The many races of the ex-Empire of the Lion of Juda have shown by extremely clear signs their desire to live and labor tranquilly in the shadow of the tricolor of Italy. The chieftains and the races defeated and fleeing no longer count, and no force in the world can make them count again.

In the gathering of October 2, I promised solemnly that I would do everything in my power to prevent an African conflict from spreading to an European war. I have kept that promise and more than ever am I convinced that to trouble the peace of Europe means the collapse of Europe. But I must immediately add that we are ready to defend our resplendent victory with the same intrepid and inexorable resolution with which we won it.

We

LMS 3-No. 130, May 5, 9 p. m. from Rome.

We feel that thus we interpret the will of the troops in Africa, of those who died and gloriously fell in battle and whose memory will be enshrined for generations and generations in the heart of the people of Italy, and of the other hundreds and thousands of soldiers and Black Shirts who in seven months of campaign have wrought such wonders as to constrain the world to unreserved admiration. To them goes the profound devoted gratitude of the Fatherland, as also to the hundred thousand workers who during these months have labored with superhuman tenacity.

Today's is an indelible date for the Black Shirt Revolution; and the people of Italy which has resisted, which has not bowed beneath the economic siege and the hostility of Geneva, deserves as the sole protagonist to live fully this great hour.

Black Shirts of the Revolution, men and women of all Italy: one stage of our march has been reached. We continue to go forward in peace with the tasks which await us tomorrow and which we shall face with courage, faith, and determination. Long live Italy! And may this cry reach the troops who perhaps await it in the land of Africa. Long live <sup>Italy</sup> Holy!

KIRK

SMS:NPL

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4284 FOR Tel. #290, 9:30 pm

FROM Ethiopia ( Oramp ) DATED May 5, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1187 ...

REGARDING: Occupation of the Palace and other strategic points at Addis Ababa by the Italian advance guard about 4:30 p.m., May 5, however, prior to their arrival the Railway terminus and the Akaki radio station were occupied by roadbuilding troops which were leading the column approaching the city.

LMS

PLAIN

Addis Ababa via N. R.

Dated May 5, 1936

Rec'd 3:30 p. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

290, May 5, 9:30 p. m.

My 289, May 5, 6 p. m.

I am informed by the Addis Ababa correspondents of the United Press and the International News who had met the Italian advance guard yesterday about fifty kilometers from the city that at about noon today orders were issued to proceed to Addis Ababa as quickly as possible.

At 4 p. m. about twenty motorcycles passed the British Legation along the Dessie Road followed by nine baby tanks and a large number of trucks and staff cars containing parts of the Sabauda division and the second Eritrean division. They proceeded in good order without any opposition to various strategic points in the town and the Palace was occupied at about 4:30 p. m.

I am told that prior to the arrival of the advance guard both the railway terminus and the Akaki radio station were occupied by roadbuilding troops which were leading the column approaching the city and proceeded

thereto

4284

LMS 2-No. 290, May 5, 9:30 p. m. from Addis Ababa.

thereto via a shorter route.

Approximately one hour after the initial entrance Marshal Badoglio said to have entered the city and to have immediately proceeded to the Italian Legation where General Headquarters was established.

Since dusk the city has been comparatively quiet with only sporadic firing and it would appear that that part of the population which has caused so much trouble during the past few days has departed.

CRAMP

HPD

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84 /4300 FOR Tel. #133, 6 pm

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 6, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 \*\*\*

REGARDING: Details of the provisional administration of Ethiopia have not yet been determined but that all military powers are vested in Badoglio and that the Governor of Rome has been named a frontier governor to administer the city of Addis Ababa. Diplomatic representatives are to have the de facto status of consuls.

LMS

A portion of this telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (A)

Rome

Dated May 6, 1936

Rec'd 2:05 p. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

133, May 6, 6 p. m.

(GRAY) Foreign Office officials inform me that order has been established in Addis Ababa and that all measures for the protection of foreigners have been taken. They state that the details of the provisional administration of the recently occupied territory have not yet been determined but it is understood that all military powers are vested in Badoglio and that Bottai, Governor of Rome, who is with the Italian forces, has been named a frontier governor to administer the city of Addis Ababa. (END GRAY)

In the course of conversations with Foreign Office officials the information was volunteered that although the chiefs of mission at Addis Ababa could not be recognized as accredited representatives they and the members of their legations would be given diplomatic privileges as a matter of courtesy and such facilities as are usual in the case of military occupation. The officials added that as a matter of practice the

diplomatic

4300

LMS 2-No. 133, May 6, 6 p. m. from Rome.

diplomatic representatives there would have the de facto status of consuls and that the situation was simplified by the fact that many of the diplomatic officers in Addis Ababa had consular rank also.

Repeated nowhere.

KIRK

HPD



## DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4305 FOR Tel. #134, 7 p.m.

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 6, 1936  
 TO NAME 1-1127 ...

REGARDING: Possible systems of government and consolidation of the Abyssinian territory which the Italian Government may eventually adopt - includes the actual annexation with the colonies of Eritrea and Somaliland extended to embrace the entire Ethiopian territory, etc.

LMS

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (B)

Rome

Dated May 6, 1936

Rec'd 3:10 p. m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

134, May 6, 7 p. m. (SECTION ONE).

CONFIDENTIAL.

The statement by Mussolini last night that "Ethiopia is Italian" has concentrated attention on the juridicial procedure which the Italian Government may eventually adopt in order to consolidate its occupation of Abyssinian territory.

During the past few days of the advance on Addis Ababa various conjectures along this line have been circulating. Prior to the departure of the Negus and the disappearance of the Abyssinian Government the solution generally predicted was the negotiation of a peace with some Abyssinian authority which would give Italy practical control of the country. Following the latest development, however, the attitude has been reflected even in the press that Ethiopia as a state has now ceased to exist; that therefore there can be no negotiations and that Italy's military occupation amounts to political possession subject only to the specific appeasing of other nations. On this assumption it has

BEEN

4305

LMS 2-No. 134, May 6, 7 p. m., Sec. 1 from Rome.

been suggested that the flight of the Negus might be considered as tantamount to abdication and that the organization of Abyssinia on the model of British India might be contemplated with the King of Italy assuming the title of Emperor of Abyssinia and the local government in the hands of the various races. Another procedure suggested has been that of actual annexation with the colonies of Eritrea and Somaliland extended to embrace the entire Ethiopian territory. In some circles the Duce's speech of last night is regarded on first analysis as leaning toward this plan although his general reference might cover other procedures. The suggestion has also been made that Mussolini might propose the establishment of a system of government similar to that maintained by the French in Morocco and in this connection it might be recalled that in the initial stages of the conflict the Duce drew an analogy between the Italian enterprise in Abyssinia and the French occupation of Morocco.

The question immediately arises as to the relation to League action of any plan that may be adopted. The theory has been advanced as the League can only function at the request of a member state and as Ethiopia is no longer a state the League can drop the matter without any decision by the Council, Assembly or Secretariat.

KIRK

NPL

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (B)

Rome

Dated May 6, 1936

Rec'd 6:15 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

134, May 6, 7 p.m. (SECTION TWO).

This simple solution appears to be confined to Italian unofficial circles.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL. The French Ambassador on the other hand told me yesterday morning that he considered that a solution of the Abyssinian conflict from the international standpoint was more difficult now than at any time since the commencement of hostilities, that terms which might have been agreed to in the latter part of last year, or even in March of this year when direct negotiations between Italy and Abyssinia failed, no longer seemed possible and that it was clear that Italian aims had grown with the conquest of territory. The Ambassador said that from the League standpoint a negotiated peace even with a puppet native government as Abyssinia would be more acceptable but there appeared now to be no material out of which such a government could be formed. Any other plan would offer serious difficulties although strenuous

NPL No. 134, May 6, 7 p.m. from Rome.

strenuous efforts were being made by France to aid in arriving at some solution which would terminate the conflict. According to the French view some form of cooperation between England and Italy was essential to confront the problems of reorganization in Europe and to that end France was urging moderation on the part of the Duce and a more favorable attitude towards Italy on the part of the British Government and it was hoped that these efforts would result in some favorable results in Geneva. The British Ambassador in a conversation today did not give the impression that he considered that the events of the last few days had in themselves rendered a solution appreciably more difficult. He agreed that some form of negotiated peace would have rendered easier the work of the League but that there now seemed no possibility of such a development and said that some proposal whereby the welfare of the native population might be safeguarded on the basis of the principles laid down in Article Twenty-two of the Covenant would go far towards relieving British public opinion. British interests in Abyssinia, he added, aside from the objection to the recruiting of a black Italian army there, were confined to the Lake Tana region and certain grazing rights and those interests were amply provided

From Rome, May 6, #134.

provided for in existing treaties and agreements. As to the formula through which these considerations would be given effect in Geneva, the British, as well as the French Ambassador, offered no concrete suggestions and they as well as others are inclined to the idea that events have moved with such rapidity that the Italians themselves may not yet have reached a concrete plan. It is felt, however, that some declaration will have to be made by the Italian representatives in Geneva on May 11, and from certain indications it does not appear improbable that a definition by the Italian Government of the juridical aspects of the future status of Abyssinia might be forthcoming before that date.

As regards possible developments relating to sanctions a thesis has been advanced in Italian unofficial circles that on the assumption that the measures were adopted by individual states on their own responsibility each country may determine on its own initiative the future of those measures and that consequently this particular matter may be handled outside the League. The British Ambassador in discussing this question said that it would be impossible to extend the

END SECTION TWO

KIRK

SMS N. I

This telegram must be  
closely paraphrased be-  
fore being communicated  
to anyone (E & C)

ROME

Dated May 6, 1936

Rec'd 8 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

134, May 6, 7 p.m. (SECTION THREE)

sanctions at Geneva as the French Government  
whose days were numbered, could not go beyond the  
measures already taken, and the British Ambassador  
likewise did not foresee any such move.

In conversations with members of the Foreign Office  
the usual reserve is encountered as to the actual course  
of the Duce's policy in the near future. They  
reiterate the view that the war is over and that the  
emphasis must now be on peace. Suvich in a brief con-  
versation today reflected a certain optimism as regards  
future developments although in answer minor officials  
showed that they were mindful of the difficulties ahead.  
I detected a preoccupation among the latter as to the  
attitude of France not only in connection with the policy  
of the future government there but especially in regard  
to a possible conflict of Italian and French interests  
in Abyssinia itself. This preoccupation seems to be  
overshadowing in their minds the Italo-British tension  
and to indicate a recrudescence of the anti-French  
attitude which colored Italo-French relations before  
the Laval visit and the beginning of an approach to the  
pro-British

-2-

From Rome, May 6, #134, Section 3.

pro-British attitude adopted by the Italian Government prior to the Abyssinian conflict. This possible change of attitude, however, is detected only in limited official circles and is not reflected in general public opinion here.    END

KIRK

SMS NPT



# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4301 FOR Tel. #298, 11 am

FROM Ethiopia ( Engert ) DATED May 6, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1157 \*\*\*

REGARDING: High Commissioner and Commander in Chief has assumed all military and civil powers and has appointed a military and civil government for the city of Addis Ababa, which will be governed in accordance with the laws and military ordinances of Italy.

LMS

PLAIN

Addis Ababa via N. R.

Dated May 6, 1936

Rec'd 2:35 p. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

298, May 6, 11 a. m.

15  
29  
Have just received call from member of Marshal  
Badoglio's staff who handed me a note verbale in Italian  
dated today of which substance is as follows:

High Commissioner and Commander in Chief has in  
name of King of Italy assumed all military and civil  
powers and has appointed a military and a civil govern-  
ment for the city of Addis Ababa which, under his orders,  
will be governed in accordance with the laws and mili-  
tary ordinances of Italy.

"Based on these laws and ordinances and pending  
further disposition regarding the cessation of hostil-  
ities and the new status of the country the Chief of  
Mission and the members of the Legation of the United  
States of America will enjoy the prerogatives accorded  
to them for the representation of the interests of the  
countries represented by them and for the protection  
of their respective nations".

(Italian text of above paragraph reads as follows:

"In

4301

LMS 2-No. 298, May 6, 11 a. m. from Addis Ababa.

"In base a tali leggi ed a tali ordinamenti fino alle future determinazioni relative alla cessazione delle ostilità ed al nuovo assetto del paese il capo missione ed i membri della legazione degli Stati Uniti Americani godranno delle prerogative loro riconosciute per la rappresentanza degli interessi dei paesi da essi rappresentati e per la tutela dei rispettivi loro sudditi")

Note then states that for these purposes they may address themselves to the cabinet of the High Commissioner who will insure protection of persons of the Chief of Mission and members of American Legation and persons in their service as well as personal or real property belonging to them.

High Commissioner requests American Legation observe laws and military ordinances of Italy and hopes it will assist in maintaining good relations between High Commissioner and Legation.

Any official relations between the Legation and authorities other than Italian, or acts contrary to laws and ordinances published by High Commissioner, will not be recognized by the latter.

High Commissioner hopes that Legations realizing special circumstances and necessity of assuring, in the interests of the public, order discipline and justice,

will

LMS 3-No. 298, May 6, 11 a. m. from Addis Ababa.

will also in their own interest and that of the occupied country lend cooperation for which High Commissioner would be grateful.

ENGERT

WWC

10

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 884.001 Selassie I/316 FOR Tel. #10 a.m.

FROM Jerusalem (Morris) DATED May 6, 1936

TO NAME 1-1127 \*\*\*

REGARDING: Emperor of Ethiopia will be landed from the ENTERPRISE  
at Haifa on Friday or Saturday.

CORRECTED COPY

LMS

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (A)

Jerusalem

Dated May 6, 1936

Rec'd 9:10 a. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

May 6, 10 a. m.

Air officer commanding confirms orally that the Emperor of Ethiopia will be landed from the ENTERPRISE at Haifa on Friday or Saturday. Will endeavor to ascertain his future plans.

MORRIS

HPD

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4332<sup>1</sup> FOR Tel. #311, 11 a.m.

FROM Ethiopia ( Engert ) DATED May 7, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1137

REGARDING: Note requesting foreign Missions in Ethiopia to cooperate as much as possible with the Government "in order that it need not be necessary to curtail their privileges." Report regarding -.

LMS

A portion of this telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (A)

Addis Ababa via N. R.

Dated May 7, 1936

Rec'd 3:53 p. m., 8th

Secretary of State,

Washington.

311, May 7, 11 a. m. (SECTION ONE).

(GRAY) My 298, May 6, 11 a. m.

After I had read the note, the (?) who brought it, a Captain Alessandrini, told me that he was really a First Secretary in the Italian Diplomatic Service but had been temporarily detached to serve on the High Commissioner's staff. He also referred to the fact that Marshal Badoglio had at one time been Ambassador in Rio and implied that they were therefore both versed in diplomatic usage. He said he had been instructed to add orally that the High Commissioner would appreciate it very much if the legations would cooperate with him as much as possible "in order that it need not be necessary to curtail their privileges". (END GRAY)

CONFIDENTIAL. I offered no comment on the contents of the note or his verbal communication other than to say that the note would at once be referred to my Government and that I was personally quite prepared to cooperate with the Italian authorities for the protection

4332 1/2



LMS 2-No. 311, May 7, 11 a. m., Sec. 1, from Addis Ababa.

tection of American citizens and property and the maintenance of order.

(END SECTION ONE)

ENGERT

CSB

MM

ADDIS ABABA

This message must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (A)

Dated May 7, 1936

Rec'd. 7:09pm. May 8.

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

311, May 7, 10pm. SECTION TWO.

Diplomatic Corps met today to discuss note and further steps. Much to our surprise the German Charge informed us that he not only had already replied but had called on Chief of Cabinet who presented him to the Marshal. He read to us text of his reply which I thought was couched in unnecessarily cordial terms. My other colleagues decided: (one) to await instructions before even acknowledging the note; (two) to call individually and informally on the chief of cabinet (who is incidentally the Marshal's son); and (three) not to ask to see the Marshal, but if his son or another official should offer to introduce us, to accept. I personally do not consider (two) and (three) a particularly dignified procedure but as it does not seem of vital importance I agreed.

Belgian Minister Phardean informed us that when Alessandrini called he explained that the Marshal, by virtue of his rank as High Commissioner, would not make first call on the Ministers. The Captain also added an

amusing

4332

311, May 7, 10pm. from Addis Ababa. -2-

amusing and possibly significant touch by stating that he had been instructed to deliver the note to the "non-sanctionist legations" first and he appears to have begun with the German. END OF MESSAGE.

ENBERT

WWC  
KLP

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4310 FOR Tel. #135. 10 a.m.

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 7, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1157 ...

REGARDING: Press editorials continue to stress the fact that Ethiopia is now Italian and would be defended against any contestant, and that there is no question of any negotiations with the Negus. There has been no discussion of the form of government to be imposed.

MJP

GRAY

Rome

Dated May 7, 1936

Rec'd 8:03 a. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

135, May 7, 10 a. m.

The Italian Government official newspaper agency reports that order has been restored in Addis Ababa. A police force of Carabinieri, infantry and fast motor units has been created, the local police have been organized under Italian command, Italian guards have been stationed around the French and American Legations at their request. All legations have been found intact. A war tribunal was instituted, all undesirable elements are being eliminated, supplies are being organized through shipments from Djibouti and utilization of local stocks. All auxiliary units of the motorized columns as well as the Eritrean forces have entered the city. Relations between the Italian authorities and Europeans as well as natives are reported excellent.

Press editorials continue to stress the fact that Ethiopia is now Italian and as such would be defended against any contestant, that there is no question of any negotiations with the Negus and that peace prevails

to the

884.01

4310

MJP -2- No. 135, May 7, 10 a. m. from Rome.

to the deep satisfaction of the natives. There is no mention of reported Italian diplomatic representations to London and Paris or discussion of the form of government to be imposed.

KIRK

RR:HPD

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4315 FOR Tel. #138, 5 p.m.

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED May 7, 1936  
TO NAME 1 1197 000

REGARDING: "annexation pure and simple" is the sole solution of the Abyssinian territory question as stated by the Foreign Office Spokesman. Adding that there can be no bargaining, compromise or pretense.

865D.01/23

RR

GRAY

Rome

Dated May 7, 1936.

Received 1:30 p. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

138, May 7, 5 p. m.

The Foreign Office spokesman states in GIORNALE  
D'ITALIA tonight that "annexation pure and simple" is the  
sole solution of the Abyssinian territory question. Adding  
that there can be no bargaining, compromise or pretense.

KIRK

RR

4315



# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4461 FOR #1671

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 7, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127

REGARDING: Text of Mussolini's speech on May 5 celebrating the capture of Addis Ababa, declaring that the war was over and peace restored.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4462 FOR #1673

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 7, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1187 000

REGARDING: Acceptance by the Italian people of the announcement  
that the war was over, peace restored and that Ethiopia  
was irrevocably Italian.

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4525 FOR Memo.

FROM Department of State ( Hackworth ) DATED May 7, 1936  
TO Legal Adviser NAME 1-1127 \*\*\*

REGARDING: Memorandum regarding the procedure which the United States should follow in readjusting international relations with Italy.

## DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4523 FOR Report

FROM Military Attache, (.....) DATED May 8, 1936  
TO Rome NAME 1-1127 ...

REGARDING: Text of Mussolini's speech upon announcement of entry  
of Italian troops into Addis Ababa, declaring that  
war had ended and peace restored.

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4336 FOR Tel. #141. noon

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 9, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127

REGARDING: According to information available the Ethiopian Government has entirely disappeared from the territory over which it exercised sovereignty and there is no proof as yet of its continuance elsewhere. Italians are contending that with the flight of the Negus and members of the Government, Ethiopia has ceased to exist, however France and England continue to recognize Ethiopia as a sovereign state.

865D.01/28

MM

ROME

This message must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (C)

Dated May 9, 1936

Rec'd. 9am.

Secretary of State

Washington, D.C.

141, May 9, noon.

CONFIDENTIAL. There are certain preliminary problems of special interest to our Government arising out of the situation created in Abyssinia which the Department is no doubt considering and regarding which I shall appreciate advice as soon as decisions may be reached.

The first of these problems in order would seem to be the question of plebiscite, namely, that a state of war between Ethiopia and Italy proclaimed by the President in his proclamation of October 5, 1935, is to be regarded as still existing. A formal declaration of war between the two countries was never made and the war was carried on with only the interruption of diplomatic relations other than upon the entrance of the Italians into Addis Ababa Mussolini declared that the war was over and that peace was restored. As a matter of fact, however, although the usual military communiques are no longer published the newspapers announce further military advances on Abyssinian territory and it is today reported that Harrar has been taken. The question therefore arises as to whether a state of war

4336

141, May 9, noon from Rome.

-2-

of war may be regarded as terminated merely by a declaration on the part of only one of the belligerents that the war is over while military measures which could scarcely be characterized as police measures are still in operation.

Another phase of the same question relates to the present status of the Ethiopian Government and the character which may be ascribed thereto. According to the information available the Ethiopian Government has entirely disappeared from the territory over which it exercised sovereignty and there is no proof as yet of its continuation elsewhere unless it may be regarded as established in the person of the Negus. Judging from published expression, the Italians are contending that with the flight of the Negus and the members of the Government, Ethiopia as a state has ceased to exist. On the other hand a press report circulated this morning states that France and England will continue to recognize Ethiopia as a sovereign state. This phase of the problem therefore resolves itself into the question as to whether the Ethiopian State can be regarded as in existence and if the Italian thesis is accepted as to whether a state of war can be regarded as prevailing when one of two belligerents shall have ceased to exist.

The foregoing

141, May 9, noon from Rome. -3-

The foregoing observations are apart from the question as to the attitude to be adopted in regard to the actual status of the Abyssinian territory as a result of the Italian occupation. This attitude will no doubt be determined in its general application on considerations of principle involved in the Italian war of conquest itself and in particular may be affected by the nature of the juridical form which the Italian Government is expected to ascribe by unilateral act to the conquered territory. Until this is announced it would seem that no definite decision on the practical aspects of the situation can be taken and it is possible that even after this confirmation is made the special circumstances prevailing in the conquered territory may obviate the necessity on the part of foreign governments of actually declaring their attitude towards the status created. It seems clear, however, that the Italians once having succeeded in justifying this war from their own standpoint, will be astute to take advantage of any gesture in order to ascribe to any foreign government acquiescence in that status and conversely will be inclined to resent a manifestation of an unfavorable attitude.

KIRK

WWC  
HPD



# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4341 FOR Tel. #142, 10:45 p.m.

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 9, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 ...

REGARDING: Declaration by Mussolini that the territories formerly comprised in the Empire of Ethiopia are placed under the full sovereignty of Italy and that the title of Emperor is assumed for himself and his successors by the King of Italy.

NPL

PLAIN

Rome

Dated May 9, 1936

Rec'd 7:20 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

RUSH.

142, ninth, 10:45 p.m.

My 137, May 7, 4 p.m.

Mussolini has just declared that the territories formerly comprised in the Empire of Ethiopia are placed under the full sovereignty of Italy and that the title of Emperor is assumed for himself and his successors by the King of Italy.

SMS:NPL

KIRK

4341

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4342 FOR Tel. #143, midnight

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED May 9, 1936

TO NAME 1-1127 ...

REGARDING: Text of the principle articles of a Royal Decree placing Ethiopia under complete sovereignty of Italy approved by the Grand Council and Council of Ministers and submitted immediately for the King's signature.

365D.01/50

NPL

GRAY

Rome

Dated May 9, 1936

Rec'd 9:10 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

143, May 9, midnight.

In addition to the declaration contained in my telegram 142, the Duce said in his speech this evening that Italy at last had her empire: an empire of Fascism, of peace "because Italy wants peace for herself and for all and decides upon war only when constrained by imperative necessities that cannot be coerced", of civilization and humanity, that after fifteen centuries the empire reappeared upon the hills of Rome, and that the Italian people had created it with blood, would fructify it with labor and would defend it with men against every one.

The following are the principal articles of a royal decree approved by the Grand Council and Council of Ministers and submitted immediately for the King's signature tonight:

One. The territories and peoples which belonged to the Empire of Ethiopia are placed under the full

and

4342

NPL No. 143, May 9, midnight from Rome.

and complete sovereignty of the Kingdom of Italy.  
The title of Emperor of Ethiopia is assumed for himself and his successors by the King of Italy.

Two. Ethiopia shall be governed and represented by a Governor General, having the title of Viceroy, who shall also have under him the Governors of Eritrea and Somaliland.

All the civil and military authorities of the territories subject of his jurisdiction shall be subordinate to the Governor General, Viceroy of Ethiopia.

The Governor General, Viceroy of Ethiopia, shall be appointed by Royal Decree on the proposal of the Chief of Government, Prime Minister Secretary of State, Minister Secretary of State for Colonies.

Three. Under Royal Decrees issued on the proposal of the Chief of Government ( ~~by~~ ) provision will be made for the organization of Ethiopia.

A second Royal Decree appoints Badoglio Viceroy of Ethiopia with full powers.

SMS:NPL

KIRK

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4513 FOR #1679

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 9, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 \*\*\*

REGARDING: Text of Mussolini's speech proclaiming Italian annexation of Ethiopia, and of decree-Laws for the establishment of the full sovereignty of Italy over Ethiopia and the assumption of the title of Emperor of Ethiopia by the King of Italy.

120

865D.01/31

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4347 FOR Tel. #327. noon

FROM Ethiopia ( Engert ) DATED May 10, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1157 \*\*\*

REGARDING: Attitude of the United States toward the Italian  
Military authorities in Addis Ababa.

CA

A portion of this telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone (A)

ADDIS ABABA VIA N. R.

Dated May 10, 1936.

Rec'd 5 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

327, May 10, 12 noon.

Department's 209, May 9, 2 p.m.

I have just received note dated yesterday from the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps informing me that inasmuch as the French Minister had been known to call on Marshal Badoglio he (the Belgian Minister) would also bequest to be received.

Unless I am instructed to the contrary I shall therefore likewise make an appointment to call upon the High Commander.

Since the Italian occupation I have been careful to act on the assumption that the functions of the Legation and Consulate General will continue as normally as the altered physical circumstances permit. I feel that the fewer questions of principle are raised the easier will be the practical solution of any difficulties that might arise. We shall be scrupulously correct and polite in our relations with the Italian authorities and shall yield only in matters of little or no importance or of course upon instructions from the Department. In this manner I hope to afford the  
fullest

4347



CA        --2--     327 Addis Ababa May 10 noon..

fullest possible protection to American interests while  
avoiding all unnecessary friction with the authorities.

What reply shall I make to the note referred to in  
the Legation's telegram No. 298, May 6?

ENGERT.

EMP SMS

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4396 FOR Note

FROM Italian Embassy ( ) DATED May 11, 1936

TO NAME 1-1137 \*\*\*

REGARDING: Decree dated May 9, 1936 proclaiming Italian sovereignty  
over Ethiopia. Calls the Secretary's attention to the-

8617.01/33

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4384 FOR Memo.

FROM State Department ( Reber ) DATED May 11, 1936  
TO (Western European NAME 1-1187 \*\*  
Division) (Reber)

REGARDING: Proposed call of the Italian Ambassador on May 12, to  
discuss the question of American attitude concerning  
recognition of Italian annexation of Ethiopia and relations  
of American officials in Addis Ababa with Italian authorities.

865D.01/34

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4365 FOR Tel. #389, 5 p.m.

FROM France ( Strass ) DATED May 11, 1936

TO NAME 1-1117 ...

REGARDING: Attitude of France toward the annexation by Italy of  
the Ethiopian territory.

865D.01/35

LMS

GRAY

Paris

Dated May 11, 1936

Rec'd 2:50 p. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

389, May 11, 5 p. m.

2 { Before leaving for Geneva it is reported Boncour secured Blum's support for the policy he is to pursue there; namely, close cooperation with England's policy and no initiative for the lifting of sanctions from Italy.

That Italy's annexation of Abyssinia has caused much dissatisfaction in official circles here is attested. in a Havas communique informing the public that the French Government had given advance warning to the Italian Government that it made all reservations with respect of such procedure.

The French Government had been exerting all its powers of persuasion to avert such an open challenge to the League and particularly to England and France the principal interested powers. In fact it went so far as to sound a warning in Rome that annexation would make it difficult for the French representative in Geneva to resist the application of sanctions.

While the Duce's decision was expected and therefore not surprising it has caused considerable reaction

in

4365

LMS 2-No. 389, May 11, 5 p. m. from Paris.

in public opinion which runs the gamut between annoyance at an act which widens the breach in the Stresa front and disgust at the Duce's brutal manner of concluding his conquest with total disregard for League face.

Press reaction to Italy's annexation (?) of Abyssinia is markedly divided between the Right and Left. While the former expresses a certain reluctant resignation to facts and urges a moderate attitude toward those facts, the latter clamors for revenge on Italy and the prevention of the exploitation of her conquest by the preservation and strict continued application of League principles.

The consensus of Right opinion is that an almost irremediable blow has been deliberately dealt the League from which it will be difficult to recover and that the Geneva body will now be painfully obliged to adjust facts to principles without destroying those principles and without denying those facts.

On the other hand, certain organs of the extreme Left press rise in indignation and press for a showdown at once in a crisis which the Geneva Powers had hoped to postpone.

Mailed to London, Berlin, Rome, Geneva.

STRAUS

KLI 1100

## DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4360 FOR Tel. #160, 7 p.m.

FROM Geneva (Gilbert) DATED May 11, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1197 ...

REGARDING: Declaration of Argentine policy against Territorial aggression.

365D.01/36

sms

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (C)

Geneva

Dated May 11, 1936

Rec'd 6:05 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

160, May 11, 7 p.m.

One. The Argentine representative has told me in confidence that his delegation under telegraphic instructions from the Foreign Minister has prepared a declaration of policy to be made in the Council against territorial aggression which is in harmony (#) "general American principles" but that Argentina will not make this declaration unless other states take the lead.

The Argentine representative expresses the view that he does not see how Chile and Ecuador can properly fail to follow suit in view of the "general American policy".

Two. The Chilean Minister informs me in like strict confidence that he is in receipt of two instructions from Santiago: one from the President that he should in any case make a declaration in the

Council

4360



sms 2 - No. 160, May 11, 7 p.m., from Geneva.

Council that Chile will lift sanctions against Italy, the second from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the effect that Chile should make such a declaration provided the British did not "oppose" or in the event some other power took the lead.

The Minister told me further that he had disclosed these instructions to Eden. He believes that the attitude of Chile and perhaps a somewhat similar attitude of other powers will cause the British to make every effort to defer the issue.

GILBERT

(#) . Apparent omission

sms ecc

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4361 FOR Tel. #162, 9 pm

FROM Geneva ( Gilbert ) DATED May 11, 1936

TO \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 1-1187 \*\*\*

REGARDING: Objection of Aloisi to the Italo-Ethiopian dispute being placed on the agenda as Ethiopia is Italian and no dispute between Italy and Ethiopia existed. However the question was placed on the agenda, which act implies a recognition of the point that no change in the legal status of Ethiopia has occurred.

sms

GRAY

Geneva

Dated May 11, 1936

Rec'd 6:15 p.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

162, May 11, 9 p.m.

In a private meeting of the Council today to consider the agenda in which Ethiopia was represented, I am informed the following took place:

Aloisi stated that he could not accept the Italo-Ethiopian dispute being place<sup>d</sup> on the agenda as Ethiopia was Italian and no dispute between Italy and Ethiopia existed.

Eden in his capacity as President asked the views of the Council members.

Aloisi then declared that he could not admit of the matter being discussed and at that point withdrew from the table.

Denmark and Spain stated that the question should properly remain on the agenda. Eden decided that as the question was one of procedure it could be settled by a majority vote. As no further statements were made Eden declared the question to be on the

4361

sms 2 - No. 162, May 11, 9 p.m., from Geneva

the agenda.. This is construed here as implying a recognition of the important point that no change in the legal status of Ethiopia has occurred.

Aloisi participated in a subsequent public Council meeting, inasmuch as the question at issue was not under discussion.

GILBERT

EMB

SMS

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4346 FOR Tel. #145. 11 a.m.

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 11. 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 ...

REGARDING: The collapse of the feudal regime, absence of any political power or unity, the anarchy in all unoccupied territory and the spontaneous submission of the populations automatically transfer to Italy all authority and responsibility for the existence and organization of Ethiopia.

FS

GRAY

Rome

Dated May 11, 1936

Rec'd 6:42a. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

145, May 11, 11 a. m.

Press comment since the proclamation of Italian sovereignty over the Ethiopian Empire is typified, in so far as the stand which the powers and the League may take toward the matter, by an article of the Foreign Office spokesman yesterday. Referring to the "analyses that will now begin across the Alps" he points out that Ethiopian territorial unity remains intact; however, the internal collapse of the feudal regime, the absence of any political power or unity, the anarchy in all unoccupied territory and the spontaneous submission of the populations automatically transfer to Italy all authority and responsibility for the existence and organization of Ethiopia. This is not merely a right but an obvious duty; and having assumed all powers Italy will keep them permanently.

HPD

KIRK

4346

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4362 FOR Tel. #147. 3 pm

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 11, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1187

REGARDING: Uncertainty of the juridical status of the Ethiopian territory. It is pointed out that this is not a clear case of annexation nor has a colony been formed but an entity has been set up of which the exact nature and relation to Italy will have to be defined by subsequent administration acts.

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4363 FOR Tel. #148, 4 p.m.

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 11, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 ...

REGARDING: Ethiopia that was a member of the League has ceased to exist, and the Covenant has no provision for "annulment pure and simple or in other words for suicide" such as the Ethiopia represented at Geneva has committed through the desertion of the Negus and his followers.

20

865D.01/40



LMS

GRAY

Rome

Dated May 11, 1936

Rec'd 3:30 p. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

148, May 11, 4 p. m.

In an editorial entitled the "accomplished fact" the Foreign Office spokesman tonight says the cordial homage paid the Duce at the Saturday's ceremony by the diplomatic representatives of Germany, Japan, Brazil, Austria, Hungary, and Albania attests to the friendliness of those countries for Italy and represents an initial virtual recognition on their part of the Italian action. The Fascist Empire, he continues, is already accepted by 218,000,000 inhabitants of those young nations which are to become increasingly influential in the world.

He then notes Chile's decision to propose abolishment of sanctions at Geneva today adding that abolishment means recognition of the Empire within the League and that Chile's action following that of Ecuador indicates the trend in Latin America toward the League as well as Chile's friendliness toward Italy and her realistic spirit.

He then contrasts the above manifestations which prove that Italy is not isolated, with the "acid

reservations

4363

LMS 2-No. 148, May 11, 4 p. m. From Rome.

Reservations" of certain European governments and statesmen which "we note solely as news, nothing more".

Italy's decision he continues is inalterable; the Ethiopian affair is settled and any attempt to revive it would serve only as a manifestation of hostility and, as such, to be considered by Italy for appropriate reaction.

As to the League the Ethiopia that was a member thereof has ceased to exist; and the Covenant contains no provision for "annulment pure and simple or in other words for suicide" such as the Ethiopia represented at Geneva has committed through the desertion of the Negus and his men. Feudal Ethiopia has through internal degeneration ceased to exist and there are now only the heterogenous populations demanding Italian protection and the oppressors they have driven out. The League must, therefore, choose between Italy and a half dozen fugitive Ethiopian chieftains.

Italy, he concludes, is ready to cooperate with the other powers and the League on all questions of real interest. However, she asks nothing, whether assistance, approval or pardon, being conscious of her own dignity and strength and of the injustices suffered her international policy and internal economic and

financial

LMS 3-No. 148, May 11, 4 p. m. from Rome.

financial resouces permit her to face all contingencies. Her abstension from European collaboration will last just as long as sanctions last but this does not signify political inaction.

"Italy is not asleep. She will take steps for an independent development of her policy. And it is not impossible that as a result of her independent attitude, other contributions besides Italy's may be lacking in the policy of general European cooperation."

KIRK

WWC:KLP

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4397 FOR Memo.

FROM State Department ( Full ) DATED May 12, 1936  
TO (Secretary) NAME 1-1137 \*\*\*

REGARDING: Explanation by the Italian Ambassador regarding the premature action of the Italian Government in proclaiming the annexation of Ethiopia with the Italian King as Emperor in accordance with a memorandum from his government which he handed to the Secretary.

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4413..... FOR Memo......

FROM State Department..... (Phillips.....) DATED May 12, 1936.....  
TO (Undersecretary)..... NAME 1-1127 .....

REGARDING: Memorandum of conversation with the Italian Ambassador during which he stated that he had left a formal notification of the Annexation of Ethiopia by Italy, but that the Secretary had made no comments on United States attitude.

## DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4454 FOR #990

FROM Guatemala ( Donoghue ) DATED May 12, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1187

REGARDING: Guatemalan reply to the Italian notification of annexation  
of Ethiopia to consist only of acknowledgment.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4398 FOR Tel. #155, 5 p.m.

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 13, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 078

REGARDING: Decree of May 9 proclaiming Italian sovereignty over  
Ethiopia to be presented by Mussolini before the Chamber  
and Senate on May 14 and 15 for immediate approval.

LMS      A portion of  
this telegram must be  
closely paraphrased be-  
fore being communicated  
to anyone. (C)

Rome

Dated May 13, 1936

Rec'd 1:30 p. m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

155, May 13, 5 p. m.

My 147, May 11, 3 p. m., paragraph two.

(GRAY) A communique today announces that all  
Italian diplomatic representatives have been instructed  
to communicate the decree of May 9th regarding Ethiopia  
to the respective governments.

Special sessions of the Chamber and Senate are  
announced for tomorrow and Saturday, respectively,  
the decrees of May 9th to be presented by the Duce and  
immediately approved.

KIRK

CSB



DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4516 FOR #1680

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 13, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1197 690

REGARDING: Manifestation held over Italy upon the announcement of the  
assumption of Italian sovereignty over Ethiopia. Report on --.

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4414 FOR Memo.

FROM State Department ( Murray ) DATED May 13, 1936  
TO (Near Eastern Affairs) NAME 1-1127 ...

REGARDING: Decree of the Italian Government proclaiming annexation  
of Ethiopia. Conversation with the Turkish Ambassador  
during which he inquired regarding attitude of the United  
States.

365D.01/46

## DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4405 FOR Tel. #47, 3 p.m.

FROM Honduras (Gibson) DATED May 13, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1187

REGARDING: Telegram received by the Honduran Government from the Colombian Minister referring to Italian notification of annexation of Ethiopia and inviting a uniform reply of non-recognition in accordance with the Saavedra Lamas pact.

LMS

GRAY

Tegucigalpa

Dated May 13, 1936

Rec'd 6:30 p. m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

47, May 13, 3 p. m.

Honduran Minister for Foreign Affairs received telegram May 12 from Colombian Minister for Foreign Affairs referring to the Italian notification of the annexation of Ethiopia and inviting a uniform reply of non-recognition in accordance with the declaration of American states of August 3, 1932 and the second article of the Saavedra Lamas pact.

Honduran Minister for Foreign Affairs would appreciate information regarding the attitude of the United States regarding such policy before answering the Colombian telegram. Please instruct me as to any statement that the Department desires to make.

GIBSON

NPL:SMS

4405

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4405 FOR Tel. #28, 7 p.m.

FROM \_\_\_\_\_ ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) DATED May 13, 1935  
TO Honduras NAME 1-117 ...

REGARDING: United States Government has refrained from replying to  
the Italian Government's notification of annexation of  
Ethiopia. Requests the Honduran Government be so informed.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4396 FOR Tel. #226, 7 p.m.

FROM \_\_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_\_) DATED May 13, 1936  
TO Ethiopia NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 1-1197

REGARDING: Text of a note from the Italian Ambassador calling attention  
of the Secretary of State to the Decree of May 9, 1936  
proclaiming Italian sovereignty over Ethiopia.

865D.01/49

## DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4422 FOR Tel. #124, noon

FROM Nicaragua (Long) DATED May 14, 1936

TO NAME 1-1137 ...

REGARDING: Text of a telegram from the Colombian Government to Nicaragua inviting a uniform reply of non-recognition to the Italian notification of annexation of Ethiopia in which the American doctrine would be reaffirmed.

LMS

GRAY

Managua

Dated May 14, 1936

Rec'd 4:10 p. m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

TRIPLE PRIORITY.

124, May 14, noon.

I have just received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs a copy of a telegram dated May 12 which he states was received by his office en clair from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Colombia. A hurried translation of the message reads: "Minister for Foreign Affairs Managua. I cordially greet Your Excellency. The Italian Government has given notice today of the annexation of Ethiopia announcing it to be in fact and of right Italian. As this annexation is in disagreement with the declaration of the American nations of August 3, 1932 and with the second article of the Saavedra Lamas Pact which constitutes a high, noble, and indestructible American doctrine, permit me to invite Your Excellency's illustrious Government to give a joint or uniform reply to the Italian notification in which the American doctrine shall be reaffirmed (sereafirme) and the annexation not recognized

(sedesconozca)

4422



LMS 2-No. 124, May 14, noon, from Managua.

(sedesconozca). I look forward to knowing the ideas which Your Excellency may be good enough to transmit to me on this matter transcendental for the destiny of international law and for the practices and doctrines of the American continent. I avail myself opportunity to reiterate to Your Excellency assurances of consideration and appreciation."

CONFIDENTIAL: Minister Arguello had planned to acknowledge the message and say that, Nicaragua being a signatory, she would respect the treaties but he indicated just now that he would delay the reply until he could learn of our attitude so that all replies might be uniform. I will appreciate any information which the Department may desire that I pass on to Arguello.

LONG

SMS:NPL

## DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4472 FOR #685

FROM El Salvador ( Corrigan ) DATED May 14, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1187 \*\*\*

REGARDING: Position of the Salvadoran Government with regard to  
Italy's declaration of the annexation of Ethiopia.

865D.01/51

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4471 FOR #390

FROM Honduras (Gibson) DATED May 14, 1936

TO NAME 1-1127 OF

REGARDING: Inquiry of the Honduran Minister regarding attitude of  
the United States toward policy of a uniform reply  
of non-recognition of Italian annexation of Ethiopia.

24

865D.01/52

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4410 FOR Tel. #403, noon

FROM France ( Strass ) DATED May 14, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1137 000

REGARDING: Status of Ethiopia from the French viewpoint.

6650.01/53

FS

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (B)

Paris

Dated May 14, 1936

Rec'd 9:25 a. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

403, May 14, noon.

In conversation with an official at the Foreign Office yesterday afternoon he said that the exact status of Ethiopia was "most confusing and without precedent". He said that the French Government had received official notification from the Italian Government of the decree annexing Ethiopia; the French Government, however, had not as yet "even begun to consider" what form any reply if and when made might take. There were "no useful precedents" for such a case, for instance during the World War Belgium had been overrun and occupied but the Belgian Government always remained in possession of the Belgian soil and in active resistance to the enemy; the more recent case of Manchuria "was much less delicate" for France since French interests there were relatively unimportant. The League of Nations in its resolution of May 12, 1936, had "apparently" decided that Ethiopia still existed as an independent state "and there the matter stands". He said that the French Government

4410

FS

2-No. 403, May 14, noon from Paris

G overnment had counselled the Italian Government against any such drastic move as annexation pure and simple and had made "reservations" against such an eventuality well in advance of the Italian announcement of annexation. 15

In response to an inquiry he said that there had been no "active" discussions with the Italian Government respecting French interests in Ethiopia such as the railway; the impression was obtained however that the "reservations" undoubtedly covered such interests.

This official said that the French Government was completely in the dark regarding the exact significance to be attached to the withdrawal of the Italian delegation from Geneva and that the Italian Ambassador whom he had seen the night before could throw no light on the matter. He (this official) believed however that Mussolini had no present intention of withdrawing from the League since the League might prove useful later on to Italy and that the dramatic departure of Aloisi had been ordered more in the nature of a protest against the attitude assumed by the Council in the Ethiopian question.

He said that in the meeting at Geneva of the Locarno powers (minus Italy) there had been no discussion beyond

an

FS

3-No. 403, May 14, noon from Paris

an agreement that nothing could be discussed until Germany replies to the British questionnaire.

He added that while there seemed to be a certain amount of attention being given to schemes for the reform of the League (for instance the British press has been published letters) such a matter would obviously require months of work and the French Government was at present more concerned with finding some practical solution to the pressing problems immediately confronting Europe.

Cipher texts to London, Berlin, Rome, Geneva.

CSB

STRAUS

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4420 FOR Tel. #158. 8 pm

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 14, 1936

TO NAME 1-1197 ...

REGARDING: Decree laws of May 9 regarding the annexation of Ethiopia  
and the establishment of a government passed by the  
Italian chamber on May 14.

865D.01/54



LMS

GRAY

Rome

Dated May 14, 1936

Rec'd 3:46 p. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

158, May 14, 8 p. m.

Chamber today passed the decree laws of May 9  
(see my 155, May 13, 5 p. m.) presented by Mussolini  
in a brief report in which he characterized the decrees  
as expressing the irrevocable determination of Rome.  
In the course of a general speech Deputy Delcroix said  
in reference to foreign opposition that Europe has  
greater need of Rome than Rome has of Europe.

KIRK

RR

4420

53

## DOCUMENT FILE

### NOTE

SEE 765.84/4517 FOR #1682,

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 14, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 ...

#### REGARDING:

As to the possible recognition of annexation of Ethiopia by the Vatican, it is said that the Pope does not wish to be the first to make a gesture of recognition.

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 863.00/1272 FOR Tel. #24, 8 p.m.

FROM Austria ( Young ) DATED May 14, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1187

REGARDING: Congratulatory telegram from Starhemberg to Mussolini  
upon his victory in Ethiopia. Report regarding -.

363.00/1272

## DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4460 FOR Memo.

FROM State Department (Duggan) DATED May 14, 1936  
TO Latin American Affairs NAME 1-1187 ...

REGARDING: Memorandum of conversation with the Colombian Charge  
regarding Italian notification of the Annexation of  
Ethiopia, informing him that the United States was  
refraining from comment.

581

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4459 FOR Memo.

FROM State Department (Dooman) DATED May 14, 1936  
TO (Far Eastern Division) NAME 1-1187 ...

REGARDING: Inquiry of the Japanese Ambassador about the attitude of  
the American Government toward issuance of Italian Decree  
affirming extension of Italian sovereignty over Ethiopia.

25

865D.01/58

## DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4457 FOR Memo.

FROM State Department (Phillips) DATED May 15, 1936  
TO (Undersecretary) NAME 1-1117 ...

REGARDING: Memorandum of conversation with the Chinese Ambassador  
regarding the proposed action of the United States  
in reply to the Italian notification of annexation of  
Ethiopia.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4428 FOR Tel. #161, 4 pm

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED May 15, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1187 ...

REGARDING: Administrative measures adopted by Italy to be applied  
in Ethiopia.

ge

865D.01/60

FS

GRAY

Rome

Dated May 15, 1936

Rec'd 12:40 p. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

161, May 15, 4 p. m.

The following administrative measures relating to Ethiopia have been mentioned so far in the Italian press.

One. Italian consular visa is required for all foreigners entering Ethiopia.

Two. The Ministry of Justice has instructed that all civil and legal documents be issued "in the name of His Majesty Victor Emanuel III, by the grace of God and the will of the nation, King of Italy and Emperor of Ethiopia".

Three. The Bank of Ethiopia will be absorbed by the Bank of Italy which is shortly to open an Addis Ababa branch.

Four. Mussolini has instructed the President of the Industrialists Confederation to organize among the interested corporative categories technical, scientific and practical members to study Ethiopian resources. The

press

4428



FS        2-No. 161, May 15, 4 p. m. from Rome

press declares editorially that development and  
colonization will be controlled through the corpora-  
tive organization and that the work will start immediately.  
A colonial agricultural bureau has been created in the  
Farm Labor Confederation under the charge of experts in  
colonial, agricultural and syndical organization. All  
persons or concerns interested in colonial schemes must  
present their projects to the Ministry of Colonies.

RR

KIRK

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4520 FOR #1686

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 15, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127

REGARDING: Report by a Military Attache regarding the Italian campaign  
the announcement by Mussolini of sovereignty of Italy over  
Ethiopia, appointment of a governor General of Ethiopia  
and that the King has assumed the title of Emperor.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4489 FOR #235

FROM Uruguay (Lay) DATED May 15, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1137 070

REGARDING: Uruguayan attitude toward annexation of Ethiopia  
by Italy.

ge

60.0.01/32

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4409 FOR Memo.

FROM State Department (Dooman) DATED May 15, 1936  
TO Far Eastern Affairs NAME 1-1127 ...

REGARDING: Conversation with the Counselor of the Japanese Embassy regarding the Italian Decree extending Italian Sovereignty over Ethiopia and the Japanese attitude. Inquiry regarding American attitude.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4430 FOR Tel. #162, 9 a.m.

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED May 16, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1187 ...

REGARDING: Announcement in the Italian press under Vienna date line  
that the Austrian Government has recognized the annexa-  
tion of Ethiopia by Italy, however the Austrian Legation  
offers no confirmation.

FS

A portion of this  
telegram must be closely  
paraphrased before being  
communicated to anyone.  
(B)

Rome

Dated May 16, 1936

Rec'd 6:09 a. m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

16?, May 16, 9 a. m.

My 156, May 13, 7 p. m., last paragraph.

(GRAY). / The following announcement appears in  
today's press under Vienna date line of May 15th,  
night:

"The Austrian Government has recognized the  
annexation of Ethiopia by Italy. Former Abyssinian  
citizens have during the past few days called at cer-  
tain Italian consulates in Austria to request Italian  
passports."

Austrian Legation here has no confirmation. /

HPD

KIRK

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4435 FOR Tel. #164, 11 a.m.

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 16, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 000

REGARDING: Announcement in the press of the formation of a semi-governmental mining group financed by the Italian Government to develop mineral resources, control all mining projects and buy up old mining concessions in Ethiopia.

FS

GRAY

Rome

Dated May 16, 1936

Rec'd 9:35 a. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

164, May 16, 11 a. m.

My 161, May 15, 4 p. m.

In the course of an article regarding plans for the development of Ethiopia this morning's MESSAGGERO announces the formation of a semi-governmental mining group financed by the government and other semi-governmental groups to develop mineral resources, control all mining projects and buy up old mining concessions (a number of which are said already to be in Italian hands) in Ethiopia.

CSB

KIRK

4435



# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4432 FOR Tel. #165, noon

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 16, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1137 ..

REGARDING: Reference in the Italian press to American attitude regarding recognition of the Italian annexation of Ethiopia.

FS

GRAY

Rome

Dated May 16, 1936

Rec'd 7:50 a. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

165, May 16, noon.

My 149, May 11, 5 p. m.

No further reference to the American official attitude regarding Ethiopia has been published here except for a report from New York dated May 12th that the White House was considering the arms embargo question, that legal experts maintained that since the embargo had been applied independently of the League and since the war was over it should now be lifted without reference to the attitude of sanctionist countries and that a White House spokesman had said a decision would shortly be announced.

A brief summary of the Secretary's letter of May 11th describing government measures to protect Americans in Addis Ababa was published on the 13th and on May 14th it was reported from New York that the State Department had been officially notified of the new status of Ethiopia.

The

4432

FS        2-No. 165, May 16, noon from Rome

The only reference to possible American recognition so far published here was a United Press report several days ago from Washington to the effect that while the Department refused to make any statement it was generally believed that American diplomatic representatives accredited to a country no longer existing and stationed in territory which at least de facto fell within the orbit of the diplomatic mission in Rome, would soon be recalled, without however implying any de jure recognition.

CSB

KIRK

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4441 FOR Tel. #167, 6 p.m.

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 16, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 ...

REGARDING: Decrees of May 9 regarding annexation of Ethiopia by  
Italy were passed by the Senate on May 16, 1936.

LMS

GRAY

Rome

Dated May 16, 1936

Rec'd 3:15 p. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

167, May 16, 6 p. m.

My telegram No. 158, May 14, 8 p. m.

Decree laws passed the Senate this afternoon and  
will be published in Official Gazette.

KIRK

CSB

2 2 6

## DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4436 FOR Tel. #37, 11 a.m.

FROM Norway ( Biddle ) DATED May 16, 1936  
TO \_\_\_\_\_ NAME \_\_\_\_\_ 1-1127 070

REGARDING: Statement made by Hitler in a conversation with the British Ambassador that he had been asked to recognize Italian annexation of Ethiopia, adding that he had adopted a waiting attitude.

ge

8650.01/68

FS

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (A)

Oslo

Dated May 16, 1936

Rec'd 10:55 a. m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

37, May 16, 11 a. m.

Reliably informed that last Geneva meeting was characterized by such duplicity as to have left delegates almost hopelessly divided regarding future action and to have greatly confused international situation. League members await British lead on League revision which will determine whether League will become academic body or develop into one prepared to exert military action.

Am likewise informed that Hitler, as preliminary to formal reply to British memorandum, recently asked British Ambassador, Berlin, regarding British intentions concerning League reform indicating that he himself favored automatic sanctions, that is sanctions which would have joint military and economic action immediately upon passage of hostile troops across a member state's frontier. Hitler furthermore inquired of British Ambassador regarding probable attitude of United States and South American Republics on suggested automatic

FS

2-No. 37, May 16, 11 a. m. from Oslo

automatic sanctions. He also interrogated Ambassador regarding British attitude toward existing Italian sanctions and stated that he had been asked to recognize Italian annexation of Ethiopia, adding that he had adopted a waiting attitude. He evidently expects an offer from England. Hitler continued his questions by signifying France was now feverishly augmenting armaments and supplying Russia with on a large scale. He reemphasized his decision not to fortify Rhineland in view of desire to keep faith with Great Britain.

HPD

BIDDLE



# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4437 FOR T.l. #168, 11 a.m.

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 17, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1187 010

REGARDING: Austrian Foreign Minister has acknowledged receipt of notification of annexation of Ethiopia, however the acknowledgment does not carry recognition.

865D.01/69

MJD

GRAY

Rome

Dated May 17, 1936.

Rec'd. 10:25 a. m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

168, May 17, 11 a. m.

My 162, May 16, 9 a. m.

No further reference to Austrian recognition has appeared. It is reported that Austrian Foreign Minister has acknowledged receipt of notification of decree of May 9 but that the acknowledgment does not (repeat not) carry recognition.

KIRK

NPL

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

865D.01

SEE 841.00 P.R./441 FOR #2200

FROM Great Britain (Atherton) DATED May 18, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1197 \*\*\*

### REGARDING:

Abyssinia placed under sovereignty of Italy, and title of  
Emperor assumed by King Victor Emmanuel.

Byzantine.

Ignor Trandi called at the foreign office last week to present a copy of the royal decree by which Byzantine has been placed under the sovereignty of Italy, and the title of emperor has been assumed by King Victor Emmanuel. Mr. Baldwin stated that the Ambassador had been informed that the document was issued under all reserve. Later Mr. Baldwin said. The instructions of Sir Lloyd George (at Paris) are to proceed on the basis that there should be accorded to the Italian military authorities that recognition to which an army in military occupation of enemy territory is entitled under the principles of international law. Obviously, this statement is no more than the recognition of Italy's sovereignty in Byzantine.

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4455 FOR Tel. #171, 4 p.m.

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 18, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1187

REGARDING: Provisions effective as of May 9 in Ethiopia which are predicated upon the Italian claim to sovereignty over Ethiopia and are regarded as manifestations of the application of Italian executive authority in the territory.

WE  
CA  
NE  
LE

LMS

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (C)

Rome

Dated May 18, 1936

Rec'd 5 p. m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

171, May 18, 4 p. m.

Department's 43, May 16, 1 p. m.

Although it is obviously impossible to determine from information available here the actual situation existing in Ethiopia, the following observations are submitted as of possible relevancy in connection with the Department's study of the question of the continued application of the President's proclamations of October 5 on arms shipments and travel on belligerent vessels.

As regards the military operations in Ethiopia it is possible only to offer certain considerations which in themselves do not establish the facts of the situation. The Italian Government declared on May 9 that the war with Ethiopia had ended and a Governor General Viceroy was vested with full powers over the military authorities of the territories subject to his jurisdiction. Since that date no military communiques have been issued and no important advances have been reported since the fall of Harrar, (see my 141, May 9,

noon)

615.31/4455

note  
711.00111 ac  
7-5 84119

LMS 2-No. 171, May 18, 4 p. m. from Rome.

84 20  
noon). Accounts continue to be published of a gradual occupation of the country accompanied by the submission of native chiefs, but all military activities are referred to as dispersions of criminal bands and police measures to restore and maintain order under a regime of martial law. No attacks on Italian troops or effective resistance to Italian forces are reported and in this connection Captain Meade, who has just passed through Rome enroute to the United States, informs me that although armed resistance on the part of native bands in the unoccupied territory may be expected there is no longer any established Ethiopian military authority or centralized command in the country. In view of the fact, however, that a large part of Ethiopia is not under actual Italian control and that no definite information<sup>is</sup>/available as to the situation existing there both as regards an executive authority as well as a military organization, future developments in the territory outside Italian control can only be a matter of conjecture.

As regards the status of Ethiopia with special reference to the matter of the existence there of an executive authority, confusion still exists but certain factors are apparent. Italy has declared sovereignty

OVER

LMS 3-No. 171, May 16, 4 p. m. from Rome.

over the territories and peoples of the Empire of Ethiopia with the King of Italy as Emperor, a Governor General Viceroy has been given power over the civil authorities of the territories under his jurisdiction, steps are to be taken for the organization of Ethiopia and the foregoing provisions are effective as of May 9. Although no official statement has been made as to the juridical status of Ethiopia as a result of the Italian victories and the decrees of May 9 unofficial interpretations have characterized this status as not in the nature of a personal union of two crowns and two states and explain that whereas from an international standpoint Ethiopia is an inseparable part of the Italian state, from an internal viewpoint although it belongs to Italy it is not incorporated in or annexed to the Kingdom. Special measures have already been adopted for the administration of the country and others are apparently in process of preparation. In this connection civil governors (see my 133, May 6, 6 p. m.) or commissioners have been appointed for Addis Ababa, Harrar, Jijiga and Dire-dawa, various other administrative measures have been announced (see my 161, May 15, 4 p. m., and 164, May 16, 11 a. m.) and within

the



LMS 4-No. 171, May 18, 4 p. m. from Rome.

the last few days it has been reported that the public works financing consortium has allotted 100,000,000 lire to form the initial capital of a separate section of that concern for financing public works in Ethiopia and that the Committee of Ministers created last March for the defense of savings has issued general instructions regarding the organization of credits for the economic development of Ethiopia. These provisions are predicated upon the Italian claim to sovereignty over Ethiopia and are regarded as manifestations of the application of Italian executive authority in the territory. On the other hand it is reported that the Negus maintains his sovereign powers and that there is even a nucleus of a native government in the unoccupied territory which might eventually exercise authority.

The foregoing observations are sufficient to demonstrate the conflicting nature of the evidence relating to the military resistance in Ethiopia and the existence of an executive authority there and to indicate the impossibility of drawing definite conclusions as to the actual facts of the situation. From the evidence at hand, however, it might be argued that

LMS 5-No. 171, May 18, 4 p. m. from Rome.

that a war or a state of war as typified by massed armed Ethiopian and Italian forces in opposition does not exist at the moment and that from present indications the renewal of hostilities of this nature does not appear imminent. It might further be argued that not only is there an expressed intent on the part of the Italian Government to establish an executive authority in Abyssinia but that certain steps affecting the occupied territory are being taken to carry out that intent and that any attempts from without to modify that intent would meet with an opposition from which the gravest consequences might result. The validity of such arguments, HOWEVER, and their significance would be the basic factors in determining whether the revocation of one or of both of the President's proclamations of October 5 would be warranted or opportune and that fact should be recognized by states whose decisions might be affected by other considerations. Those states, either by direct negotiation or through the mechanism of the League, are presumably occupied in efforts to find a solution of the conflict whether by agreement on some juridical formula or by absorbing the present conflict into

SOME

LMS 6-No. 171, May 18, 4 p. m. from Rome.

some general constructive plan of European reorganization. The first problem of the United States, however, would seem to be the liquidation of the measures adopted as a neutral during a war whenever conditions warrant and the consideration of the final settlement of the conflict and of the attitude of the Government thereto may be left in abeyance until circumstances require a decision in that regard.

KIRK

SMS:NPL

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 711.00111 Armament Control/888 FOR State Dept. Memo.

FROM Division of Far (Hornbeck) DATED May 18, 1936  
TO Eastern Affairs NAME 1-1137

REGARDING: Question of attitude and possible action by the American Government in regard to its outstanding proclamations. Presents pertinent facts and it is believed that it would be advisable for this Government to continue to "proceed slowly" in regard to the whole question.

ge

865D.01/72

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4479 FOR Tel. #128, 11 a.m.

FROM Brazil (Gibson) DATED May 21, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 020

REGARDING: Inquiry of Foreign Office as to character of reply the  
United States contemplates making to Italian notification  
of annexation of Ethiopia.

FS

GRAY

Rio de Janeiro

Dated May 21, 1936

Rec'd 9:40 a. m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

128, May 21, 11 a. m.

Foreign Office would appreciate information as to character of reply Department contemplates making to circular communication from Italian Government announcing annexation of Abyssinia.

GILSON

7

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4508 FOR Memo.

FROM State Department (Dunn) DATED May 21, 1936  
TO Western European Affairs NAME 1-1127 \*\*\*

REGARDING: Conversation with the Counselor of the Italian Embassy concerning American attitude on Italian annexation of Ethiopia. Discussion of the suggestion of the Colombian Government that, in conformity with article 2 of the Anti-War Treaty of Oct., 1933, American governments should not recognize the annexation.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4511 FOR Note

FROM Cuban Embassy ( ) DATED May 23, 1936, rec'd  
TO NAME 1-1187

REGARDING: Inquiry of the Cuban Government as to what attitude the  
United States Government is assuming toward Italian  
annexation of Ethiopia.



DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4479 FOR Tel. #72, 2, p.m.

FROM ( ) DATED May 22, 1936  
TO Brazil NAME 1-1127

REGARDING: Inquiry of the Brazilian Government regarding attitude of  
United States toward Italian annexation of Ethiopia.  
Reply to -.

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4487 FOR Tel. #177, 11 a.m.

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 23, 1936  
 TO NAME 1-1127 \*\*\*

865D.01/77

REGARDING: **Communique published from Addis Ababa states Italian territorial occupation is going forward methodically with the peaceful submission of the population.**

MJI

GRAY

Rome

Dated May 23, 1936

Rec'd 8:15 a. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

177, May 23, 11 a. m.

A Stefani communique published from Addis Ababa this morning states territorial occupation is going forward methodically with the peaceful submission of the population. Absolute calm prevails in the Gondar, Tana and Sudan frontier regions. The third army corps is occupying the Dessie region, the 4th moving toward Gondar and the 2nd holding its positions and intensifying work on roads and political organization; the "October 28" Black Shirt Division continues to garrison the Tembien. The air force maintains active survey over entire territory.

KIRK

TIC

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4490 ..... FOR Tel. #431, 1 p.m. ....

FROM France ..... ( Strass ) DATED May 30, 1936 .....  
TO ..... NAME ..... 1-1187 000

REGARDING: Statement made by Mussolini in reply to a question whether  
he would give certain assurances to England in return for  
recognition - "I am asking nothing of England and I am  
ready to give her all possible assurances."

25

6657.01/78

FS

GRAY

Paris

Dated May 25, 1936

Rec'd 9:20 a. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

431, May 25, 1 p. m. (SECTION ONE).

It is interesting to note the apparent effort which Mussolini is making as reflected in interviews recently granted to representatives of the French press to reestablish, following the conquest and annexation of Ethiopia, more cordial relations with England and France. For instance, in an interview published in the PETIT PARISIEN on May 23 Mussolini stated his intention to consider in the friendliest way the case of the order of expulsion issued against a French plane in Abyssinia (since then the order has been canceled), and that he had given orders that the French railway should continue to be used normally. In an interview published in the INTRANSIGEANT last night replying to a question whether Italy would leave the League of Nations he replied, "I have remained in the League until now and hope to be able to remain in the future but it is necessary that others should not render our collaboration impossible"; he further stated that he

did

FS

2-No. 431, May 25, 1 p. m. from Paris

did not believe a European war would take place and that, "I am working and I shall continue to work with all my energies for the maintenance of peace."

In reply to a question whether he would give certain assurances to England in return for recognition of the present status of Ethiopia he said, "I am asking nothing of England and I am ready to give her all possible assurances".

(END OF FIRST)

VWC:RR

STRAUS

FS

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (B)

Paris

Dated May 25, 1936

Rec'd 11 a. m.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

431, May 25, 1 p. m. (SECTION TWO)

CONFIDENTIAL. In connection with these interviews it may be of interest to report that certain of the Embassy's well-informed contacts appear to attach little importance to them believing that Mussolini is emulating Hitler in spasmodic and irregular efforts at rapprochement with various governments whenever he considers the moment propitious.

A representative of Havas reported a conversation which Blum is supposed to have had recently with Titulesco in Paris in connection with the question of sanctions. Blum realizing that France's foreign policy at the time of the elections had been anything but definite is believed to have decided to proceed with the utmost caution. He will probably hold out for sanctions in June in Geneva as he wishes to remain on the best possible terms with England. He might at the same time ultimate that the whole question of the lifting of sanctions should be considered at the time of the Assembly and in the meantime

give

FS        2-No. 431, May 25, 1 p. m. from Paris

give assurances to Mussolini that France will not be too active in pressing the question. In other words France will try for the moment to hunt with the hounds and to run with the hare and her policy will be one of watchful waiting but with the emphasis on a closer relationship with England always in the background.

Ciphers to London, Berlin, Rome, Geneva.

(END OF SECTION TWO AND MISCELLANEOUS)

CSB

STRAUS



# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4497 FOR Tel. #369, 10 a.m.

FROM Ethiopia (Engert) DATED May 25, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 010

REGARDING: Attacks by Abbysinian guerillas on Italian troops since  
the fall of Addis Ababa

ge

865D.01/79

JS

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone (A)

ADDIS ABABA Via H.R.

Dated May 25, 1936

Rec'd 7:05 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

369, May 25, 10 a.m.

Received following information from a reliable source:

One. Flying field near Dessie was attacked by Abyssinian guerillas a few days ago and four Italian planes are reported to have been destroyed on the ground.

Two. Since the fall of Addis Ababa some twenty-five Italian military trucks have been ambushed, looted, and most of the crews killed on the road between here and Dessie.

Three. During the past three days there has been unusual air activity. Large Italian bombing planes are constantly leaving Addis Ababa for the North and returning empty. They are said to be engaged in dispersing Ethiopian forces under Ras Abada who are believed to be active in the area west of the Korem--Dessie road.

Four. Friction between Italian military authorities and the French Djibouti railway is growing daily. Italians have commandeered practically all rolling stock and evidently intend to use railway to supply

most

FS 2- No. 369, May 25, 10 a. m. from Addis Ababa

most of their troops in Ethiopia during the rainy season. However, they have so far been unable to reach an agreement with railway company regarding freight charges. French authorities in Djibouti threaten to prevent transit of all military supplies.

Italians may retaliate by refusing importation of merchandise from all sanctionist countries.

SMS:ECC

ENGERT

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4504 FOR Tel. #178, 7 p.m.

FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 26, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 \*\*\*

REGARDING: Since declaration of Italian sovereignty over Ethiopia  
by decrees of May 9, all acts issued in the name of the  
King of Italy now include the title Emperor of Ethiopia.  
Resolution pertaining to civil and military measures in  
Ethiopia.

LMS

GRAY

Rome

Dated May 26, 1936

Rec'd 3:10 p. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

178, May 26, 7 p. m.

My despatch No. 1695 of May 21st and telegram No. 167 of May 16, 5 p. m.

The laws of May 18th which converted into law the May 9th decrees declaring Italian sovereignty over Ethiopia were published in the Official Gazette yesterday. All acts issued in the name of the King of Italy now include the title Emperor of Ethiopia.

The following resolution pertaining to civil and military measures in Ethiopia are taken from the Italian press.

Marshal Badoglio has departed for Italy leaving Graziani in charge. Graziani has been replaced as Governor of Somaliland by General Santini and a Vice Governor of Somaliland has also been appointed. General Guzzoni, hitherto Vice Governor of Eritrea, has been appointed Governor of the territory comprising Eritrea, Tigray, Danakil and Aussa. The Civil Governor and Vice Governor of Addis Ababa have departed for Italy.

LMS 2-No. 178, May 26, 7 p. m. from Rome.

Italy.

Troops in Ethiopia will be kept at full strength, only volunteers who hold political or syndical positions at home being furloughed. Reports are published of the methodical occupation of the entire country together with accounts of the advances made, accompanied by submission of tribes, military leaders and former Government officials. A high military official in Addis Ababa has denied any skirmishes in localities occupied by Italian troops. A large number of prisoners of war have been released. Fifty-three individuals are officially announced as having been executed between the occupation of Addis Ababa and May 21st, 39 of them having been caught in the act of looting or firing, and all of them guilty of serious crimes. An infantry battalion is being transported by air from Makalle to Addis Ababa for experimental purposes. It is said that while all undesirable foreigners will be expelled, persons engaging in honest business will be protected.

A scheme for the administration of civil justice in Ethiopia has been completed by the local government and is now in Rome for approval. Fascist party headquarters

LMS 3-No. 178, May 26, 7 p. m., from Rome.

headquarters for Addis Ababa have been established and a Fascist Ethiopia youth movement organized. A commission of experts is shortly to arrive in Addis Ababa to study questions connected with the liquidation of the Bank of Ethiopia and the monetary situation. A Rome-Addis Ababa civilian air line is expected to begin operating in the middle of June probably via Khartoum. Air fields at Diredawa and Debra Marcos are being rapidly improved and the Addis Ababa field will be equipped to operate efficiently even at the height of the rainy season. Civilian air lines connecting all centers are now under study. Postal rates prevailing in Italy have been officially extended to Ethiopia.

KIRK

HPD

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4514 FOR Tel. #376 - 2 p.m.

FROM Ethiopia (Engert) DATED May 27, 1936

TO NAME 1-1127 ...

REGARDING: Official notification of order issued by the Governor of Addis Ababa to the effect that natives, Italians and all other foreigners must give Fascist salute to Governor General who is acting Viceroy, to Italian flag, or Fascist emblem.

ge

3655.01/31



RR

PLAIN

Addis Ababa via N. R.

Dated May 27, 1936.

Received 3:35 p. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

376, May 27, 2 p. m.

Have received official notification of order issued today by Governor of Addis Ababa to the effect that natives, Italians and all other foreigners must give Fascist salute to Governor General who is acting Viceroy, to Italian flag, or Fascist emblem. Anybody in a car must stop and get out or if on horseback must dismount. Failure to comply is to be severely punished.

JSB

ENGERT

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4515 FOR Tel. #377, 3 p.m.

FROM Ethiopia (Engert) DATED May 27, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 ...

REGARDING: Order issued by Governor of Addis Ababa that natives  
Italians and foreigners are required to give the Fascist  
salute. Inquires whether Foreigners residing in Italy  
or Germany are expected to give respective national salutes.

ge

6650.01/32

LMS

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (A)

Addis Ababa via N. R.

Dated May 27, 1936

Rec'd 3:30 p. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

URGENT.

377, May 27, 3 p. m.

Regarding my 376 of today, please inform me whether foreigners residing in Italy or Germany are expected to give respective national salutes. There would, of course, be no objection to removing hats when passing national or regimental colors or, as a matter of courtesy, even to Governor General but unless instructed to the contrary I shall not (repeat not) advise Americans to give Fascist salute. In any event I and my American staff have no intention of making any Roman obeisances.

The requirement to leave an automobile or get off a horse appears to me too utterly ridiculous to be even discussed.

I shall confer with my diplomatic colleagues as soon as practicable.

ENGLERT

KLB

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4515 FOR Tel. #254, 6 p.m.

FROM (Engert) DATED May 28, 1936  
TO Ethiopia NAME 1-1187

REGARDING: With reference to the order issued that natives, Italians and foreigners must give the Fascist salute, quotes a notice published in the German press regarding the question of foreigners giving the Nazi salute.

865 D. 01/83

## DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4535 FOR Tel. #181, 3 p.m.FROM Italy ( Kirk ) DATED May 29, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1197 ...

REGARDING: There is no regulation requiring foreigners in Italy to give the Fascist salute, and as regards official notice issued by the Governor of Addis Ababa, there has been no reference of any such observance being required of foreigners in Ethiopia.

FS

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (A)

Rome

Dated May 29, 1936

Rec'd 11 a. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

181, May 29, 3 p. m.

Department's 50, May 28, 6 p. m.

In so far as I am aware there is no regulation requiring foreigners in Italy to give the Fascist salute and certainly it is not the practice of members of this Embassy or of other Americans to give that salute on any occasion. In accordance with the usual custom, however, civilians both native and foreign uncover when the flag of the country or the colors of military organizations pass or when the national anthems are played.

As regards the official notice issued by the Governor of Addis Ababa, there has been no reference here of any such observance being required of foreigners in Ethiopia. The inclination is to connect this order with the controversy which is said to be in process between the British and Italian Governments over the withdrawal of the British Legation guard at Addis Ababa or it might be regarded as an indication of an intent to render the position of foreign officials in Addis Ababa, and possibly of their

HJ35

FS            2-No. 181, May 29, 3 p. m. from Rome

their nationals untenable in their present status.

If such is not the case, however, it would seem that in so far as Americans are concerned an explanation to the Italian officials of the procedure customarily observed by Americans, particularly in Italy, might result in obviating the complications which might follow from the enforcement of the order.

WTC:HPD

KIRK

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4532 FOR Tel. #288, 1 p.m.

FROM Great Britain ( Atherton ) DATED May 29, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 070

REGARDING: Conclusions derived from an interview with Mussolini that he desires peace; that he asserts "undisputed sovereignty over Abyssinia" and that the sanctions which are not being effective should be withdrawn.



MJD

GRAY

London

Dated May 29, 1936.

Rec'd. 9:15 a. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

288, May 29, 1 p. m.

In order to break the Anglo-Italian stalemate by reviving interchanges between the diplomatic representatives of the two countries as well as to influence British public opinion a diplomatic correspondent of the DAILY TELEGRAPH was sent to Rome at the behest of important elements in the Conservative Party to obtain an interview with Mussolini. This interview which has been widely quoted here and I understand in the American press appeared yesterday.

Today the DAILY TELEGRAPH diplomatic correspondent gives his considered conclusions: (one) "that Signor Mussolini today desires peace; he is profoundly aware of the inevitable consequences of any other policy"; (two) that he speaks for all Italy in asserting Italy's "undisputed sovereignty over Abyssinia" the exploitation of which will occupy Italian energy for decades; (three) that the sanctions which are not being effective should be withdrawn in which case Italy would participate in the work of any committee set up by the League of Nations

-2- #288, May 29, 1 p. m. from London

Nations to prepare a better security system but if they are not withdrawn Italy will leave the League and this step may "be accompanied by more selective arrangements to guarantee Italian security".

It is noteworthy that Eden saw Grandi yesterday and the Foreign Office press bureau gave out that for the first time since the occupation of Addis Ababa some of the problems raised by the present relations of Italy to the other League powers were discussed and that Grandi expressed Mussolini's desire for better understanding with Great Britain and reiterated the assurance that Italy had no designs against British interests. One of my colleagues understands from Grandi that he personally stressed that sanctions were not penalizing the immediate Italian economic and financial position but driving Italian public opinion and above all the Italian state into a situation similar to that of Germany.

ATHERTON

CSB

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

8657.01/86

SEE 765.84/4544 FOR Tel. #182, 4 p.m.

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED May 29, 1936  
TO NAME 1--1127 ...

REGARDING: Mussolini has stated that unless the situation changes regarding sanctions and the status of the Negus he will not send a delegation to the meeting of the Council at Geneva. He appears to have staked his prestige on maintaining the position he has established and any recession from the main lines of that position would be practically impossible.

LMS

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone. (C)

Rome

Dated May 29, 1936

Rec'd 4:55 p. m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington.

182, May 29, 4 p. m.

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

I am informed that Mussolini has stated that unless the situation changes materially by June 16 especially as regards sanctions and the status of the Negus he will not send a delegation to the meeting of the Council at Geneva but will be represented at the Straits Conference which is scheduled to convene at Montreux on June 22. This latter meeting is looked upon as furnishing an opportunity for discussion of the Abyssinian problem among representatives of the interested European powers and of furthering a possible solution by reaching an agreement on the general Mediterranean problem as a broader basis for understanding.

In the meanwhile, there is every indication that the military preparedness in Italy is being maintained and even increased activities in certain branches are reported. The fleet is being kept at the height of preparedness. Increases are reported in aviation equipment and in  
offices,

LMS 2-No. 182, May 29, 4 p. m. from Rome.

offices, and it is said that new military airdromes are being developed in the northeast sector. As regards the army, it is reported that several new classes are to be called up and that schools in the Piedmont sector are to be closed so as to be available for barracks and the return to Italy of Marshal Badoglio is looked upon as an indication of intensive activities within the General Staff. In fact, the country appears to be fully established on a war basis and the extent of this preparation combined with the mood engendered by the recent successes in Abyssinia has created a state of mind on the part of Italians which is by no means conducive to an attitude of restraint in the face of what they regard as unjustified opposition.

The menace inherent in the present situation cannot be denied. Mussolini has declared that his decisions are irrevocable. He appears to have staked his prestige on maintaining the position which he has established and there is basis for the opinion that any recession from the main lines of that position would be practically impossible. Under that opinion any policy of bluff on his part is excluded for in the last analysis he would have no other course than to make good or try to make good the position which he has declared. Public opinion is firmly  
behind

LMS 3-No. 182, May 29, 4 p. m. from Rome.

behind him. He has achieved more than he promised and has proved to the people the necessity if not the value of the measures which have been adopted in attaining his ends. He has strengthened the regime by recent administrative measures and it is rumored that fresh steps in this direction, both as regards changes in important offices as well as affecting governmental organizations and bodies, may be expected in the near future. Mussolini, it is believed, is looking for a peaceful solution. To that end it is alleged that he is ready to give other countries, and especially England, every assurance that their interests will be amply respected whether in Abyssinia or Egypt or elsewhere, and the Duce himself has declared that Italy, having attained satisfaction, will be fully occupied in exploiting her conquests and will menace the peace of no nation. To effect such a solution, however, would appear to be impossible if the policy of other countries, and of England in particular, is to be predicated upon a consideration of the moral issues involved in Italy's action in Abyssinia rather than upon a conviction that some solution must be found which will liquidate this particular venture in order that nations may bend their efforts towards the reorganization of international relationships on the basic principles

LMS 4-No. 182, May 29, 4 p. m. from Rome.

principles which have hitherto been acknowledged and which would preclude a repetition of events similar to the one which has created the present situation. Those who are convinced of the grave danger of what appears to be a present deadlock are hoping that a realistic view of the problem may prevail in order to obviate the pursuit of a policy which, on the one hand, might bring about scenes within Italy of which the consequences cannot be foreseen or, on the other, drive Mussolini to precipitate a general conflict in order to demonstrate his power if only by initial successes.

KIRK

SMS:NPL

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 765.84/4535 FOR Tel. #256, 5 p.m.

FROM ( ) DATED May 29, 1936

TO Ethiopia NAME 1-1187

REGARDING: Quotes text of a telegram from the Embassy at Rome stating that there is no regulation requiring foreigners in Italy to give the Fascist salute and there is no reference of any such observance being required in Ethiopia.

865D.01/37



# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765,84/4542 ..... FOR ..... Tel. #382, 10 a.m.

FROM Ethiopia ( Report ..... ) DATED May 31, 1936  
TO NAME 1 1187 000

REGARDING: Issuance of a decree by Governor General which provides that in civil and criminal cases Italian subjects and all other foreigners being "on an equal footing as regards rights and duties" come under Italian law.

000001000

JS

Plain

ADDIS ABABA Via M R

Dated May 31, 1936

Rec'd 8 a.m.

Secretary of State,  
Washington, D.C.

382, May 31, 10 a.m.

Decree issued by Governor General but text of which I have not yet received provides that in civil and criminal cases Italian subjects and all other foreigners being "on an equal footing as regards rights and duties" come under Italian law. In criminal cases they are tried by Italian judges and appeal lies to Court of Appeals in Rome

Britreans, Italian Somalis and Libyans are subject to laws of their respective colonies. In penal cases they are tried by Civil Governor of Addis Ababa.

Ethiopian natives are tried according to prevailing local customs and by existing magistrates except that native Moslems are tried by Cadis and Ulemas who apply Sheri laws.

Whites who acquired Ethiopian nationality (for example Armenians, Greeks, Russians, etc.) are tried by the Civil Governor of Addis Ababa.

Full text of decree by mail as soon as obtained.

URGENT.

4542

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4540 FOR Tel. #383, 11 a.m.

FROM Ethiopia (Engert) DATED May 31, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127 070

REGARDING: Decree issued by Governor General of Ethiopia prohibiting  
export of silver thalers and precious metals.

JS

Plain

ADDIS ABABA Via N R

Dated May 31, 1936

Rec'd 3:35 p.m.

Secretary of State,

Washington, D.C.

383, May 31, 11 a.m.

Governor General has issued decree prohibiting  
export of silver thalers and precious metals.

LANGERT

ECC

4540

# DOCUMENT FILE

## NOTE

SEE 765.84/4550 FOR Tel. #184, 1 p.m.

FROM Italy (Kirk) DATED June 1, 1936  
TO NAME 1-1127

REGARDING: Law passed June 1 by the Council of Ministers, and effective as of today, provides for the organization and administration of Italian East Africa.

MED

GRAY

ROME

## TELEGRAM RECEIVED

Dated June 2, 1936

Received by 5.05 PM  
EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

FROM

JUN 3 1936

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUN 3 1936

DIVISION OF  
EASTERN AFFAIRS

Secretary of State,

Washington

188, June 2, 6

My 184, June 1,

The press today announces the appointment through royal decrees now in course of completion of five generals as governors of the various East African territories and of Graziani as regent of the government general.

The newspapers in commenting on the June first law specify that the appointment of army men to these positions does not detract from the civil nature of the administration; the governor of each colony is a purely civilian functionary under the law although he also has jurisdiction over the military command of his territory. Aside from the fact that the military status of the present governors refers to their persons and not their office it is noted that these appointments are temporary and are intended to prevent any dualism of military and civil administration so long as large troop contingents and their respective high commands remain in East Africa. Later on the governorships will be filled by colonial office appointees and the army will be reduced to the minimum indispensable for the maintenance of public order.

KIRK

CSB

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

A-C/C

JUN 5 1936

ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
OF STATE

865D.01/91

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Washington,

1936 JUN 3 PM 12 53 June 3, 1936.

VIA NAVAL RADIO

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

AMLEGATION,

ADDIS ABABA (ETHIOPIA).

*264*

Following is text of telegram 188, June 2, 6 p.m.,  
from Embassy at Rome:

QUOTE The press today announces the appointment, through royal decrees, now in course of completion, of five generals, as governors of the various East African territories, and of Graziani as regent of the government general.

The newspapers in commenting on the June first law specify, that the appointment of army men to these positions does not detract from the civil nature of the administration; the governor of each colony is a purely civilian functionary, under the law, although he also has jurisdiction over the military command of his territory. Aside from the fact that the military status of the present governors refers to their persons, and not their office, it is noted that these appointments are temporary and are intended to prevent any dualism of military and civil administration so long as large troop contingents and their respective high commands remain in East Africa.

Later on the governorships will be filled by colonial office  
Enciphered by .....

Sent by operator ..... M., ..... 19.....

865D.01/91

PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

## TELEGRAM SENT

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## Department of State

- 2 -

Washington,

appointees and the army will be reduced to the minimum  
indispensable for the maintenance of public order. UNQUOTE

*WHL*  
*WHL*

NE PHA/LS

OR

Jun. 8 1938

Enciphered by .....

Sent by operator . . . M., . . . , 19 . . .



Central File: Decimal File 865D.01, Internal Affairs Of States, Italian East Africa, Government. Mandates, Recognition., Apr. 29, 1936. 29 Apr. 1936. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, [link.gale.com](https://link.gale.com) %2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109727972%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 18 June 2025.